

# Solutions

Summer 2007

## Castor River Bridge Completed

Drivers have already gotten a taste of part of the new and improved Route 72. Traffic began using the new Castor River Bridge and roadway in early June. The completed improvements were located a half-mile east of Route F in Madison County.

Work is continuing to remove the temporary bypasses and the old bridge over the Castor River. Drivers can still expect some shoulder work along the new roadway.

### *Bollinger County*

Traffic was also moved to a temporary bypass three miles west of the Route 51 junction at Patton in June.

The bypass detour is necessary to remove a curve and build a new section of roadway.

"The temporary bypass will be short and curvy with a reduced speed," says Resident Engineer Matt Malone. "We ask drivers to use caution through the work zone and watch for workers near the highway."



## Roundabout Brings Big Benefits

The Route 72 bypass project at Fredericktown is also going to include a roundabout at the industrial park.

"The roundabout was chosen

because it solves access problems, providing better access to the industrial park than a signalized intersection," Project Manager Tim Richmond says.

Results of a traffic analysis indicate that a roundabout will also out perform a traffic signal from a driver delay perspective.

In addition to convenience, roundabouts offer great safety benefits. Because the only movement allowed upon entry or exit from the roundabout is a right turn, crashes resulting in injury or fatality

are reduced 76 and 90 percent, respectively. Even crashes that occur as a result of a right-hand turn are found to be less severe in roundabouts. One reason could be slower speeds, giving drivers more time to judge the situation and react.

They also offer a 30-50 percent increase in traffic capacity, plus they are cheaper with no signal equipment to install or repair and no electricity costs.

"The roundabout will be something different for drivers, which can cause hesitancy, but the benefits will be worth it," says Richmond.



# Route 72 Construction Update

With multiple phases of work necessary to make needed improvements to Route 72 in three counties, it's easy to lose track of when construction is expected in your area. Here's the latest on construction:

Description	Construction
Reconstruct Route 72/51 intersection at Patton Junction to improve sight distance.	Completed
Castor River and Cape Creek in Madison County. Replace both bridges with a single bridge on an improved roadway alignment.	Bridge complete; shoulder work continues
Route 00 to 0.9 miles west of Castor River in Madison Co. Resurface Route 72 and provide paved shoulders.	Under Construction
Castor River to Route 51 in Madison and Bollinger Counties. Resurface Route 72 and provide paved shoulders. Improve roadway alignment at several sharp curve locations.	Under Construction
Route 67/72 interchange to Route 00 at Fredericktown. Construct Route 72 on new improved 2-lane alignment. Will be constructed in three phases.	Phase one open for bids this fall.
Bollinger County line to Route 34 in Cape Girardeau County. Resurface Route 72 and provide paved shoulders.	Open for bids this fall.
Route 51 to Cape County line in Bollinger Co. Resurface Route 72 and provide paved shoulders. Improve roadway alignment at two locations.	Open for bids this fall.
Little Whitewater Creek in Bollinger County. Replace bridge on new alignment.	Early 2009
Whitewater Creek Bridge replacement in Cape Girardeau County	Early 2009
Byrd Creek Bridge replacement in Cape Girardeau County	Early 2009
Saline Creek Bridge replacement in Madison County	2010

## Route 34/72 In Jackson Update

The second phase of the Route 34/72 work in Jackson is moving right along. Penzel Construction is doing concrete work.

"The temporary signals at West Lane and Route 34 were taken down and replaced with a stop sign because the contractor will need to shift traffic onto the new asphalt, so they can perform pavement repairs on the existing pavement and begin paving on the north side of Route 34," says Resident Engineer Darius Dowdy.

Dowdy says with so many traffic switches, it would be very difficult to keep the temporary signals in operation because the poles and the signals would be relocated many times. The replacement was made to maintain consistency at the intersection until the permanent signals are installed and ready to test by early to mid-summer.

Lanes have been reduced to 11 feet from East Lane Street to the Jackson Medical Center to begin widening of existing pavement. This portion of the work is expected to wrap up late this summer.

The widening to four lanes will conclude with the final phase from Route 34 to one and a half miles east of Route 34 starting next year. MoDOT expects to accept bids for the job in January 2008, meaning work could get underway as soon as spring '08.





# Questions On Route 72 Improvements?



*Tim Richmond*

For information on Route 72 improvements in Madison, Bollinger and Cape Girardeau Counties.

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*Solutions to:*

- New Castor River Bridge
- SMTS Reviews Route 72
- Construction Progress

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